



April 1, 2005

Mr. John T. Graves, P.E.
Environmental Manager
Minnkota Power Cooperative Inc.
1822 Mill Road, P.O. Box 13200
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58208-3200

RE: Acceptance of Route Permit Application: Lund Substation and 230 kV HVTL
EQB Docket #05-93-TR-Minnkota

Dear Mr. Graves:

On March 21, 2005, Minnkota Power filed a Route Permit application with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) regarding the construction of a 230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) and the associated Lund substation.

EQB staff has reviewed your application and has recommended that I find your application consistent with the requirements of Minnesota Rules, part 4400.1150, and that the application be reviewed pursuant to the Alternative Permitting Review process procedures in Minnesota Rules, part 4400.2000-2950. Based upon the EQB staff recommendation and my review, I am accepting the Minnkota Lund substation and HVTL application with the understanding that if additional information is requested by the EQB staff, these requests will be addressed promptly.

Given the size and type of the proposed project, I have decided not to appoint a citizen advisory task force for this project.

Mr. George Johnson will be the MEQB's staff project manager for this project and you may direct any future questions to him. Mr. Larry Hartman of the MEQB staff will serve as the public advisor for this project. We look forward to working with Minnkota Power to fully address any issues that may be raised in review of this application. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair
Environmental Quality Board

